9/11/77

Dear Les,

While there is no less dependable a source on the King assassination and the circumstances surrounding it than Mark Lane he has said something I think you should know.

It was on a WBAI broadcast of this past May.

He talked about his interview of Murtagh, with a big buildup of Murtagh in which it comes out that he was a great guy for all those 20 years of FBI dirty-works because he now says what Lane wants to hear.

He even played a tape of part of this interview or conversation.

Once Lane gets wound up with a friendly person there is less caution. He just blabs.

Here he blabbed that Murtagh has two informers of his own inside Atlanta SCLC headquarters.

Great civil-libertarian/investigator that he is Lane neglected to identify them.

Maybe Murtagh will tell you and maybe he won't. I here note that in writing you recently I've indicated spotting two different sources as a minimum in the reports I've obtained. The mailing that did not reach you, that of February, I believe referred to one, perhaps not one of these two I've spotted more recently, who had a prior criminal record.

If you have time to talk to Murtagh again and he gives you any kind of clues at all please pass them on because of what I've read that may come back to mind and because of what I will yet read.

To the degree possible I will be keeping separate files of duplicates relating to domestic intelligence operations. I have started this. Without my getting any more you'd have trouble encompassing what I have separated out in several days. The longer it is before you can shake loose the more impossible going over all becomes. However, you can equip me better for spotting what I might otherwise miss. I'd then pass this along to you.

With Murtagh all you can lose by talking to him again is a phone call and a few minutes. I suggest that using what Lane said as an opening if you engage in a general conversation with him, perhaps with a little oohing and aahing over his accomplishment in making this penetration rathee than right out asking him for names, you might learn something. Like what kind of position makes the best source inside something like SCLC HQ, how one goes about hooking a fink in such a position, what kind of information was most important to the FBI(don't accept totality on the sex stuff and getting King) and then ease into not the assassination but the sanitation strike and how they covered King for Memphis on that. If you see it this way and can find time I suggest you might want to go into the problems in keeping up with one who travelled as much and as widely as King did in early 1968. Memphis developed a special intered about 2/68.

Among the specifics that can lead us somewhere are is he the one who had as a source the one who reported what was in King's mind while King was still in Memphis the morning after the 3/28/68 disturbances? Was he the one who told an informer going to Memphis to getin touch with the FBI Memphis Field Office on getting there? (This was about 10:20 a.m. 4/3/68. It also could have been an informed from a different place, like Chicago.)

Did he have the inside source who provided King's travel schedules- and changes in them?

Good luck if you try.

Best,